

BACK TO SCHOOL

NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2025

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NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact us:

517 Vine St
Po Box 277
Cambridge IA 50046
515-383-4328
Email: nazareth_lutheranchurch@yahoo.com
Facebook: [Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cambridge](#)
website: www.nazarethlutheranchurch.yolasite.com/

FROM THE PASTOR

I wheeled to church on Saturday evening and it felt like fall in the air. I just kept taking deep breaths. After a couple of weeks of 90 degree/100 degree weather it was so refreshing to feel the cool weather.

Summer is over and the fall season will soon be here. We know this because we have lived through Jubilee Days, VBS and the newly formed Ballard Summer Meal Program. And we know the summer is over because school begins soon and the snack program begins again. Time certainly flies when the church is busy and we continue on our mission of serving God and God's people. Thank you Lord for a wonderful and busy summer. And thank all of you volunteers for God's church and God's community.

Another sign that summer is over is when our prayers are filled with school children, teachers, bus drivers and many of our college students.



As we watch all of them continue their journey in our education institutions we seek blessings for all. We ask for God’s wisdom and knowledge to guide students and teachers in their learning and teaching, leading us to Proverbs 2:6: “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Each morning when you rise please ask God to keep all children, teachers, and bus drivers safe. Ask Jesus to keep them healthy. We care for all those in our community and learning and education is so important. Guide all as we learn together.

In the past few years there seems to be a rise in bullying. Please remember in your prayers to help all be kind to one another. Help all who have been bullied and bully to open their minds and hearts to love and not hate. Thank God each and every day for all and keep are schools safe.

Heavenly Father, bless and protect our children and keep them safe in this new school year. As they travel to and from school, anoint the school bus drivers to transport their precious cargo safely. Provide the best teachers, educators, and administrators possible, people who will go the extra mile to ensure a quality education for our kids. We pray for the spiritual welfare of our kids. Bless them all.

Pastor Marcia

CHURCH DIRECTORY

It’s time to update the church directory. The one in the office is in tatters and has so many things written in and scratched out I’m not sure that we can read the correct information. The last time this was updated was 2007!

We would appreciate it if you would complete the following information and either email it to us at the church, give it to Eileen or drop it in the collection basket. We are wanting to update our birthday list as well as email and phone numbers.

Name: _____

Address: _____

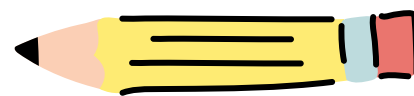
Phones: _____

Birthdays: _____

Anniversaries: _____

Kids: _____

Emergency Contact: _____





CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

Meeting of Nazareth Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 11:40 AM by President Mark Lewis following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Dave Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, Arlys Peterson, John Egeland, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen, and Church Administrator Eileen Lewis.

Minutes from the July 20 meeting were approved as read.

FINANCE REPORT: Disbursements were well over the deposit amount, but fortunately, we are still in the green. Offerings were \$4,368, \$42.00 and 40.00 added for the summer meal program and Kringla sales, respectively, totaling \$4,450. Along with the usual monthly bills, disbursements included \$6,854 in property and workman's comp insurance, with a grand total of \$11,194.68. After adding deposits and subtracting disbursements, the opening balance of \$26,325.55 closed with \$11,194.68. Savings added .80 interest for the month and now has \$3,127.81. Capital improvement's interest added .31 making a grand total of \$1,207.29, Mission Investment added \$8.23 in interest, bringing its total to \$20,062.89, Missions opened with \$1,197.98 and closed with \$1,217.98. SCRIP opened with \$2,292.05, deposited \$900, disbursed \$875, and closed with \$2,317.05.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Audrey and Aubrey will be taking a break from Confirmation class this year, but will be returning next fall. Mava and Hallie will continue.

Bible study will be started back up in the fall on the first Thursday of the month at the church, beginning in September. Gathering time will be 7:00.

Also discussed was a gathering with the new Methodist pastor. Possible scenarios included worship in the park, pot luck, or quarterly get-togethers. A few dates were kicked around, but in the end, it was decided to have the Methodist Pastor let us know what would work best for him and his family.

Pastor has also been busy working on ant puppets for next Tuesday when she and Joyce will be at the library. Joyce will be reading her children's book, "Battle of the Crumb" to the preschoolers, and the puppets will be used for the kids to help act out the story.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROPERTY: John will be taking down some tree limbs around the property next week.

CHRISTIAN ED: Bible stories will continue during Children's sermon, and will be more consistent. Members of the congregation will be invited to share their favorite stories as well. Also, Pastor and Eileen have bought lots of #2 pencils to give to teachers for the school year.

STEWARDSHIP: Still keeping bank balance well in the green.

INREACH/OUTREACH: Nothing to report

MUSIC AND WORSHIP: Good through Advent

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

NEW BUSINESS:

Constitution: Eileen made copies of the church’s constitution for council members to review. When Bishop Current visited last month, it was pointed out that when a pastor of one of her churches retired, there weren’t enough remaining church members for a quorum to decide how the church would go forward. How that turned out wasn’t shared with us, but a meeting will be held in Iowa City on August 26th to discuss that very topic. Eileen thought it would be a good idea for any attendees to be familiar with our constitution. Also of concern is our current administration is cutting back funding for non-profits, so how we would handle the possibility of paying property taxes, and having to pay tax on items directly linked to the church is of concern as well.

Sunday School kick-off dinner: September 7 marks our start date to return to Sunday School, so after service, we’ll have burgers and hot dogs on the grill, along with any pot luck brought by fellow parishioners. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

CALENDAR:

September 7 – Sunday School kick-off

September 21 – Council meeting

October 19 – drive-through dinner. Still kicking around options as to how to make it work since Ray Ringgenberg is having knee replacement surgery on the 16th.

October 19 – Council meeting

October 31 – Trunk or Treat

TBD: Nazareth bakers begin Lefsa and Kringla making

November 16 – Council meeting

November 22 – Vendor Fair

November 23 – Community Thanksgiving

December 14 – Christmas Program

December 21 – Council meeting / planning retreat

December 24 – Christmas Eve service 7:00 PM

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:21 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Joyce Allen, Council Secretary

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

July	Offering	Attendance
Jul 6, 2025	\$1,686.00	15
Jul 13, 2025	\$226.00	9
Jul 20, 2025	\$861.00	18
Jul 27, 2025	\$1,435.00	18
Total	\$4,208.00	

August	Offering	Attendance
Aug 3, 2025	\$3,360.00	15
Aug 10, 2025	\$857.00	14
Aug 17, 2025	\$755.00	19
Aug 24, 2025	\$945.00	18
Aug 31, 2025		
Total	\$5,917.00	

GRIEF SHARE SERIES

Grief is the response to the loss of something deemed important, in particular the death of a person or animal to which a bond or affection was formed. Although conventionally focused on the emotional response to loss, grief also has physical, cognitive, behavioral, social, cultural, spiritual, political and philosophical dimensions. While the terms are often used interchangeably, bereavement refers to the state of loss, while grief is the reaction to that loss.

If you or someone you know is in need of support at a time of loss, please consider joining the community in a GriefShare session. You can go to any of the sessions that you are available. The sessions will be every Thursday from September 18 through December 11th at the Huxley Library in the 3C's building.

The final session will be a Blue Christmas service on December 11th. This service is a quiet, contemplative service that is about making space during a season that is noisy with celebration, to acknowledge our emotions. And to care for those who are struggling. For those who have suffered loss, the holidays actually accentuate feelings of sadness. Being surrounded by happy Christmas carols and holiday parties may cause people to mask their feelings or even create some shame around having them. However, when a loved one is no longer present to celebrate the holiday, there is often guilt, sadness, and loneliness.

It will last 13 weeks. A workbook is included but not totally necessary for \$25. People can drop in at any point in this 13 weeks to get support.

Our facilitators are Pastor Tim Jacobsen, Kris Polich, and Pastor Eric Klimpel.



A warm, caring environment for those who have experienced human loss through death.

Fall Group



GriefShare
 A 13-week faith-based program designed to support & equip individuals as they navigate the difficult emotions & experiences of grief.

Thursdays, Sept. 18 – Dec. 11, 6:30pm – 8pm
 (You are welcome to join at any point during this period.)

Blue Christmas
Thursday, Dec. 11, 7-8pm

All events are held @ Huxley Public Library, 515 N Main Ave, Huxley (2nd floor of 3 C's Building) Contact ericklimpel@gmail.com , 515-597-2620

BALLARD SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM YEAR END REVIEW



The summer is over, and the Ballard Summer Meal Program is wrapping up for the year. Kathy and Eileen are in the process of closing the books for the year. Unfortunately, not all of the bills have been submitted yet, so we aren't sure where we stand with the money that we have left over to start next year. But we do have some information about the number of meals and the amount of food purchased.

- Number of children registered: 162
- Number of children self-reporting on Free or Reduced meals: 82
- Total Meals Made in June: 1009
- Average weekly meals made in June: 252.25
- Total Meals Made in July: 898
- Average weekly meals made in July: 224.5
- Total Meals Made in August: 595
- Average weekly meals made in August: 198.3

Favorite meals: Uncrustables, French Toast Sticks, mini pizza, and Chicken nuggets
How many chicken nuggets did we serve? The total nuggets served 5,500! We also served 1,200 sausage links and 1,845 French Toast sticks. But we only served 268 mini pizzas because we didn't get the recipe for those until late July.

Volunteers were probably the most important part of the whole summer! Without the help of the volunteers, we would not have been able to accomplish our goal of feeding the Ballard children. Each week we needed to fill 75 volunteer hours. (Meal prep was 5 people for 5 hours, 3 distribution sites required 3 people, and 2 people to drive the meals to Cambridge and Slater. We did have a number of people who volunteered every week, and one person who volunteered 19 out of 24 days!!

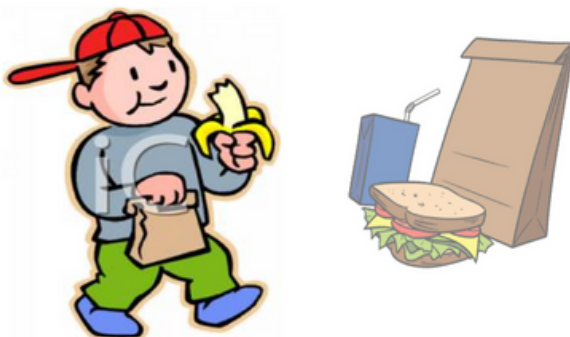
Total volunteer hours: 900+

Total volunteers: 49+ people (some people showed up and didn't complete the sign-up sheet)

Total high school student service hours: 187

In September we will have a Thank You event for our volunteers. We want them to know how appreciated that they are. We also may be trying to get some feedback on what we need to change for next year.

Thank you to all of you for your support of this program!





SEPTEMBER LITURGY AND MUSIC

Sun. Sep. 7 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Psalms 1

Opening: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me #325

Philemon 1-21

Hymn of the Day: When Peace Like a River #785

Luke 14:25-33

Distribution Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Prayer of the Day

Closing Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand #773

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sun. Sep. 14 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Psalms 51:1-10

Opening: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing #807

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling #608

Luke 15:1-10

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Prayer of the Day

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #836

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sun. Sep. 21 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Psalms 113

What A Friend We Have In Jesus #742

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Amazing Grace #779

Luke 16:1-13

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Prayer of the Day

What Wondrous Love Is This #666

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sun. Sep. 28 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Psalms 146

For the Beauty of the Earth #879

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Day by Day #790

Luke 16:19-31

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Prayer of the Day

Lift Every Voice and Sing #841

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

GAMES

Answer	Desk	Kindergarten
Arithmetic	Dictionary	Language
Art	Drama	Learn
Assignment	Dress Code	Lesson
Backpack	Education	Library
Binder	Eraser	Listen
Biology	Exam	Lunchbox
Blackboard	Folder	Student
Cafeteria	Friend	Subject
Calculator	Geography	Tape
Chair	Globe	Teacher
Chemistry	Glue	Test
Clock	Grade	Textbook
Compass	Gymnasium	Tutor
Crayon	Highlighter	Uniform
Curriculum	History	Write
Map		Question
Marker		Read
Math		Recess
Music		Respect
Notebook		Ruler
Open House		Schedule
Paper		School Bus
Pencil		Science
Physics		Scissors
Principal		Sharpener
Protractor		Silence
Pupil		Stapler

T	U	Q	T	D	R	F	R	I	E	N	D	E	Z	L	H	T	C	E	J	B	U	S
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E	E	E	S	U	O	H	N	E	P	O	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	A	A	T	H	X
R	L	C	C	M	U	C	L	U	N	C	H	B	O	X	B	I	O	L	O	G	Y	N

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. BALRIYR | _____ | kakpabcc | _____ |
| 2. NBLXCUOH | _____ | holcso | _____ |
| 3. HLABDCOKAR | _____ | licenp | _____ |
| 4. KTONOEBO | _____ | runfoim | _____ |
| 5. NUEDTSTS | _____ | locrke | _____ |
| 6. SAERER | _____ | bsu | _____ |
| 7. SCSAELS | _____ | eprap | _____ |
| 8. HARETCE | _____ | lrrue | _____ |
| 9. RMOSACOSL | _____ | wrohmkoe | _____ |
| 10. DARGNEI | _____ | rynaco | _____ |
| 11. NAURGPYOLD | _____ | rcosssis | _____ |
| 12. APRINPILC | _____ | chetera | _____ |
| 13. UYSDT | _____ | mlounorch | _____ |
| 14. NAGENRIL | _____ | gmyiunasm | _____ |
| 15. EMPUOCRT | _____ | aciemdas | _____ |
| 16. URLRE | _____ | tropss | _____ |